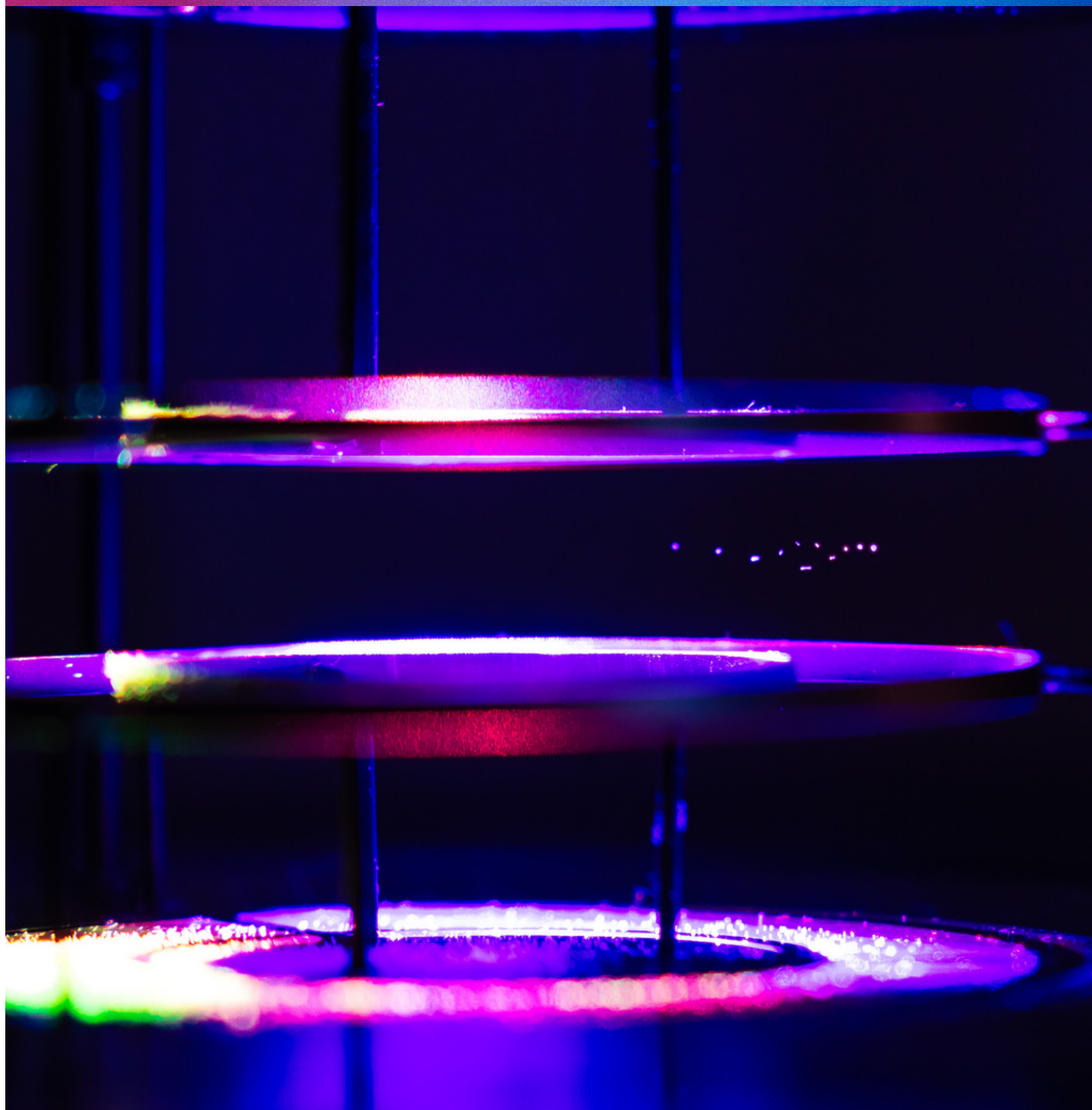


# PRESS RELEASE

REPAIRING THE PRESENT THROUGH  
ART-DRIVEN INNOVATION

13.08.2021



ST+ARTS

**BMW Foundation**  
Herbert Quandt

**S+T+ARTS**





# S+T+ARTS

S+T+ARTS is about thinking out-of-the-box and building bridges between science, technology and arts.

## The Initiative

**From June 2021, as part of the European Commission's S+T+ARTS initiative, 12 new Regional S+T+ARTS Centers will create a space for artists, scientists, and technologists to work together on a common mission: Repairing the present.**

The S+T+ARTS initiative is a program funded by the European Commission aiming to bring artistic perspectives into the innovation process to address current challenges in today's society.

Throughout the history of art, we have seen "epochs in which a certain art form aspires to effects which could only be fully obtained with a changed technical standard" (1). Artists have always been more than observers and critics of the social fabric but have shown how they can act as catalysts for innovation. Yet, despite this potential, artists have rarely been involved in the research and development of new technologies.

A hundred years after the Bauhaus movement first combined aesthetics and everyday functions, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen vowed to set up a new European Bauhaus and define an aesthetic for the biggest challenge now facing Europe and the world: the climate crisis. Its role is to make visible, even tangible the environmental, social and economical issues of our times. Moreover, the European Green Deal, vowing to make Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050, and the Sustainable Development Goals defined by the United Nations require a concerted global effort to find new ways of acquiring knowledge and thus, new actors contributing to the research and development of technologies.

The S+T+ARTS initiative responds to this call by setting up frameworks for scientists, technologists, and artists to start conversations and work towards challenging the status-quo with more sustainable innovation. With technology now pervading and shaping almost every aspect of our lives, the S+T+ARTS initiative proposes a new understanding of sustainability centered around humanity. This involves a redefinition of the role of technology in society and an acknowledgement that artistic practices can contribute to its development.

(1) Walter Benjamin, The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction



# S+T+ARTS

S+T+ARTS is driven by the conviction that science and technology combined with an artistic viewpoint also open valuable perspectives for research and business, through a holistic and human-centered approach.

## The Pillars

The initiative is made up of pillars with different foci.

**The S+T+ARTS Prize** launched in 2016 and coordinated by Ars Electronica, celebrates cooperations between artists and industry and the ways in which artistic exploration can alter the use, deployment and perception of technology.

**The S+T+ARTS Residencies** set up long-term collaborations to define methodologies for cross-disciplinary projects that integrate the arts in the development of new technologies and lead to human-centered outcomes.

**The S+T+ARTS Lighthouses** - WEAR Sustain (2017-2019), RE-FREAM (2018-2021) and Mind Spaces (2019-2021) - involve artists in research that addresses specific challenges in the industry and society.

**The S+T+ARTS Academies** aim to meet the current need for digital literacy and facilitate the education of children and young adults.

**The S+T+ARTS Regional Centers** zoom in on local and regional issues seeking solutions driven by artistic, visionary perspectives and aiming to set up frameworks for future cross-disciplinary collaborations that can be translated at a global level.

**The Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs)** is at the forefront of the digital transformation of European companies, supporting them in making the most of digital opportunities to become more competitive and future-proof. As part of DIHs, projects like Better Factory, Media Futures and Vojext focus on applications of digitisation in the manufacturing, media and construction industries.



## Regional S+T+ARTS Centers

The Regional S+T+ARTS Centers (RSCs) pillar was first launched in 2018 as a response to the need to address local issues in an increasingly globalised context. Regional S+T+ARTS Centers establish themselves as a nexus for local and international partners from the fields of art, industry, business, and research.

Their aim is two-fold: to bring global challenges closer to the communities they affect and facilitate the development of solutions specific to the region, and at the same time, to bring the message of the S+T+ARTS initiative at a local level, by placing humanist innovation at the heart of contemporary reflections on our present and future.

Led by the Belgian [Cleantech Hub Snowball](#) (BE), cultural institutions like [MAXXI Museum](#) (IT), [STATE](#) (DE), [Onassis Stegi](#) (EL), [In4Art](#) (NL), [MEET](#) (IT), [CCCCB](#) (ES), [Ars Electronica](#) (AT), join the art & tech hubs [Sony CSL Paris](#) (FR), [Kersnikova](#) (SI), [CYENS](#) (CY), [Art Hub Copenhagen](#) (DK) for a program consisting of S+T+ARTS Expert Meetings, S+T+ARTS Academies, S+T+ARTS Exhibitions and Prototyping Parks and S+T+ARTS Fellowships.

*Repairing the Present* encourages a critique of the present, the exploration beyond its current limitations, and the reimagination of other possible futures. To that end, the program fosters the development of methodologies and frameworks for long-term cross-disciplinary collaborations that can lead to products, tools and processes with a positive impact on society at large.

Each Regional S+T+ARTS Center will build a S+T+ARTS Expert Program involving government, industry, ICT, civil society, education, academia, and culture representatives to define local challenges that can benefit from the creative and critical perspective of artists.

The challenges will be addressed in 21 artist fellowships and 27 S+T+ARTS Academy events.



# S+T+ARTS

By creating the right synergies from the start and thoughtfully match-making artists with local stakeholders, the consortium partners will set the stage for the definition of shared goals and the exchange of knowledge. Artists will step into the labs of research institutions and R&D departments of companies, and researchers will be invited into artists' studios. Together they will develop new concepts, tools and products and analyse their potential impact across governments and businesses. The results will be showcased in Prototyping Parks and exhibitions set up across Europe.

In parallel to artist fellowships, further programmes will engage citizens and youth in S+T+ARTS Academy events ranging from education workshops, field expeditions, school visits, hackathons, to conferences and networking activities.

Following the dictum, **think globally, but act locally**, the Regional S+T+ARTS Centers aim to create a ripple effect by transferring the locally-developed, cross-disciplinary solutions to the wider pan-European or global context. Committed to *Repairing the Present*, the 12 partners hope to spark a critical discussion about the present and how we collectively envision a better future.

More information:

[www.starts.eu/start-regional-centres/](http://www.starts.eu/start-regional-centres/)



# REPAIRING THE PRESENT

## CONSORTIUM

### SNOWBALL (BE)

The consortium leader Snowball, is a state-of-the-art Cleantech Hub, with a growing community of cleantech entrepreneurs, scientists and researchers, artists and business mentors. Facilitating sustainable entrepreneurship and shortening the route to market for clean technology solutions is Snowball's mission. In light of the Repairing the Present, Snowball will host 2 artist-fellowships in collaboration with a diverse set of local stakeholders and S+T+ARTS partners Gluon and BOZAR, as well as co-organise a series of hackathons, networking events, industry round tables on the topics of the European Green Deal and the New Bauhaus Movement. The outcomes of the artist-fellowships will be presented on various occasions and will find their apotheosis in a joint S+T+ARTS Prototyping Park exhibition organised in late 2022.

<https://snowball.eu>

### MAXXI (IT)

MAXXI, the National Museum of 21st Century Arts, is the first Italian national institution devoted to contemporary creativity, a laboratory for cultural experimentation and innovation, for the study, research and production of the aesthetic contents of our time.

MAXXI will collaborate with Sony CSL Paris for the fellowships and will lead the organization of the final Prototyping Park, (virtual) exhibitions, and get-together events to present the role of arts in innovation processes and promote S+T+ARTS to a high number of the civil society as well as relevant policymakers.

<https://www.maxxi.art>

### CCCB (ES)

Based in Barcelona, CCCB (ES) is a contemporary cultural institute focusing on the production of knowledge within our complex and multifaceted contemporary culture.

<https://www.cccb.org/en>



# REPAIRING THE PRESENT

## CONSORTIUM

### ART HUB COPENHAGEN (DK)

Art Hub Copenhagen Art Hub is a facilitating, knowledge-producing, and experimental art institution in Copenhagen. Art Hub offers residencies for artists, artistic development programs, builds interdisciplinary networks, and organises discursive activities revolving around artistic work and research.

<https://arthubcopenhagen.net/en/>

### ONASSIS STEGI (EL)

Onassis Stegi is a multi-disciplinary cultural space in Athens, founded by the Onassis Foundation, hosting events and actions across the whole spectrum of the arts from theatre, dance, music to visual arts and hybrid art, with an emphasis on contemporary cultural expression and a strong focus on new media and digital art. As part of the project, *Repairing the Present*, Onassis Stegi will host two artist fellowships, public events & hackathons to promote the interaction between the arts, science and technology in Greece and aiming at establishing stronger connections with the education system and tech-based industry. The program proposed by Onassis Stegi aims to create awareness regarding issues of citizenship, diversity, rights & climate change mitigation and engage those sectors of society that could provide the base for a revalorization of the interest in cross-pollinating initiatives in Science, Technology and the Arts.

<https://www.onassis.org>

### IN4ART (NL)

In4Art is an innovative organisation that supports and co-produces artistic experimentation, strategic insight and the creation of new business models through their method of Art-Driven Innovation. The hosting partner for the two local fellowships will be Witteveen+Bos and the network partner is YES!Delft. The challenges will focus on the nexus of the built environment, mobility, and infrastructure in densely populated regions. Two roundtable seminars and a prototype lab will be organised in order to spur the conversation and work towards impact.

<https://www.in4art.eu>

### MEET (IT)

MEET is the first Italian international centre for digital culture guided by the belief that innovation is primarily a cultural matter, rather than a purely technological one.

<https://www.meetcenter.it/en/home-page/>



# REPAIRING THE PRESENT

## CONSORTIUM

### ARS ELECTRONICA IATI

Ars Electronica is Austria's leading cultural, educational and scientific institute active in the field of new media art since 1979. As part of the project, Repairing the Present, Ars Electronica will host one artist fellowship that focuses on advancing innovation in the field of biotechnologies through circular economy strategies to raise awareness about the ecological impact of the regional plastics industry and their innovation & sustainability strategies.

<https://ars.electronica.art/news/de/>

### SONY CSL PARIS IFRJ

Though immersed in a corporate environment, Sony CSL Paris is a nexus for a vast network spanning from the academic to corporate domains, from the public to the private sectors.

As part of the project, Sony CSL Paris will host two artist fellowships for artists and ICT experts who will be immersed in a rich ecosystem of research institutions, universities, or innovative companies. The overall purpose is to design new solutions, methods, or processes for more sustainable urban ecosystems, form climate-neutral, and digital cities, and make people aware of the complexity of the bio-socio-economic challenges of our era.

<https://csl.sony.fr>

### KERSNIKOVA INSTITUTE ISII

Kersnikova Institute is a non-profit and non-governmental art space organisation at the nexus of investigative arts, science, and cutting-edge technologies. Kapelica Gallery for 26 years has exhibited artworks that are produced in its respective BioTehna lab for biotechnologies, Rampa Lab for cybernetics and Vivarium where animals, pants and robots meet.

At the national level, Kersnikova Institute, will establish three residences for future proof innovations. In the fields of environmental change, modern technology, education, and the arts, Kersnikova labs will strive for a new level of innovation in experimental implementation in cooperation with the creative sector and artists, scientific institutions, and the economy sector. By enabling innovation processes with the help of innovation catalysts it will introduce art-thinking and design-thinking methods for more radical, sustainable, and ethical solutions that create opportunities for a better future for individuals and society. The results of the innovation challenge will be presented to the broad public, alumni from the Kersnikova Academy (a ten-year investigative learning participants database), the Institute for Education of Slovenia, the Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Economy and the Government Office for Development and European Policy.

<https://kersnikova.org>



# REPAIRING THE PRESENT

## CONSORTIUM

### CYENS (CY)

CYENS is a Research Centre of Excellence in Cyprus focusing on Interactive Media, Smart Systems, and Emerging Technologies, supporting research activities by integrating scientific and academic research within innovation that is produced beyond it.

As part of the project *Repairing the Present*, CYENS and PwC Cyprus will co-host one artist fellowship that will explore the fields of sustainable Tourism and Culture. The fellowship sets to examine issues of sustainability and eco-semiotics for sensitive tourism-dependent regions and communities, driven by a cross-disciplinary collaboration between ICT and Emerging Technologies research, local corporate experts, and artistic-driven innovation.

In addition, parallel events and workshops will be hosted locally as part of Starts Academy and the Prototyping Park. Public/private sector and community stakeholders, artists, and creative individuals will be brought together to identify challenges, develop synergies, broaden skills and knowledge and present artistic and research projects on the related thematic areas.

<https://www.cyens.org.cy/en-gb/>

### STATE (DE)

STATE is a Berlin-based initiative that builds cultural programs at the intersection of science, art, and society to help forward ideas for a sustainable future. With exhibitions, residencies, and events, STATE invites its audience to curated deep-dives into current topics that shape our tomorrow.

<https://state-studio.com>



## CONSORTIUM PARTNER STATE



*To explore new possibilities for a sustainable tomorrow, we need artists, scientists and technologists to work together on ambitious public projects that question the status quo and allow for a new thinking to emerge.*

Christian Rauch, Founder & Managing Director STATE



As part of the RSC III project, STATE is collaborating with the BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt to design the expert program that aims to address local challenges in terms of the European Green Deal and the Sustainable Development Goals for the creation of the New European Bauhaus. Building on the RIDE futures thinking model, STATE is creating the framework for the project partners to specify and frame the definition of the local challenges that will be addressed in the artist residencies. Local experts and artists will work together with industry partners in the residency program for which STATE is setting up the road map. The challenges that STATE takes on for *Repairing the Present* move within the industrial and environmental sectors of the Berlin capital area. They aim to inspire new ideas for mobility and rethink sustainable solutions for Berlin's water management.

### **About STATE**

STATE is a Berlin-based art-science initiative with the mission to create opportunities for cross-sectoral encounters and interdisciplinary creativity. Through its exhibitions and open program, it offers curated deep-dives into current trends in science, society and innovation and creates a platform for collaboration between artists, scientists and curious others.

<https://state-studio.com>

### **About BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt**

The BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt promotes responsible leadership and inspires leaders worldwide to work towards a peaceful, just and sustainable future. Through its activities, the Foundation aims to advance the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

Guided by the key concepts of governance, innovation, and cross-sector partnerships, the BMW Foundation supports and initiates forward-looking solutions at the local and global levels.

<https://www.bmw-foundation.org/en/>





# S + T + ARTS

SCIENCE + TECHNOLOGY + ARTS

Powered by the consortium  
of REPAIRING THE PRESENT:

SNOWBALL (BE),  
MAXXI (IT),  
CCCB (ES),  
ART HUB COPENHAGEN (DK),  
ONASSIS STEGI (EL),  
IN4ART (NL),  
MEET (IT),  
ARS ELECTRONICA (AT),  
SONY CSL PARIS (FR),  
HERSNIKOVA INSTITUTE (SI),  
CYENS (CY),  
STATE (DE)

STATE Press contact:  
Christina Hooge  
ch@state-studio.com  
@statestudiobl

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